

I am very concerned over proposals for Broadband over Power Lines. First, the power companies proved in the recent blackout that they have their hands full already. New York was in serious trouble for a few days, and we want the power companies focussed on delivering power and investing in securing the delivery of power against all threats, natural and otherwise.

Second, amateur radio operators in New York demonstrated again, as they did in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, that they are an invaluable resource in an emergency. As in the 9/11 case, during this blackout, "hams" carried a significant level of the emergency communications burden during the blackout. They have been cited numerous times in recent days' press reports as having been vital to the police/fire and health&hospital services of New York during this emergency.

It would be a grave mistake to do anything which might diminish the capabilities of the 750,000 amateur radio operators in the United States. They represent a vital element of the Nation's emergency preparedness. BPL is a threat to the ability of the Amateur Radio Service to continue to attract and train new operators and to maintain their network of communications equipment (all self-financed with no cost to the public).